

SOLAFRICA



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



PREFACE

Dear readers,

How do you feel when you read about worrying news? Sometimes it helps to shift our focus consciously to the positive things that are happening – to the small but significant rays of hope among the world affairs. This is just the kind of good news you will find in Solafrica's 2024 annual review.

We'll start off by looking back at a special moment: Last September, 148 participants in the projects **Solar Learning for Women** and **Solar Learning Youth Centres** received their diplomas as solar experts. What began as a small initiative in 2009 has now developed into a far-reaching educational programme. Back then, four young people were trained on how to install a rooftop solar system on the house of Barack Obama's Kenyan grandmother, Sarah Obama. Together with our project partners in Kenya and Ethiopia, we now have the capacity to train hundreds of solar technicians every year, who graduate with a state-recognised diploma.

Some highlights from our projects:

- The global **Scouts go Solar** project is continuously developing: counting from the first pilot training at the International Scout Centre Kandersteg in 2013, we have already reached our eleventh round of training in Thailand as of May 2024: 23 scout leaders from eleven countries in Southeast Asia acquired the necessary skills to implement their own solar projects in their home countries (pages 13 to 14).
- Another success story is the **solar vignette**: A few self-printed stickers in 2004 have since given rise to an entire solar vignette community, which is still growing. Last year, we produced around 75,000 kilowatt hours of solar power in Switzerland thanks to solar vignette buyers – enough electricity to power 35 energy-efficient households for a year. The next solar installation to follow in 2025 will be for the Wylergut Kindergarten in Bern (pages 21 to 22).

- 25 **health centres** were equipped with solar energy in 2024. Seven each in Burkina Faso and Togo. Eight solar systems and six solar refrigerators were installed at eleven health centres in Niger. Thanks to solar power in these health centres, around 265,000 people benefit from improved basic medical care (pages 15 to 18).

And the list continues: Three new innovative projects are in the starting blocks. You can read more about them on pages 19 to 20.

Watching our projects create prospects for young disadvantaged people fills us with joy and confidence. These successes are only possible thanks to you – through your direct project support, sponsoring memberships, donations, bequests and purchases of solar vignettes.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts!



N. Scherrer

Nadja Scherrer
Co-President



K. Roth

Kuno Roth
Co-President



MATERNITE
TARGHO

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Our Vision and Approach

Our Vision and Approach

OUR VISION IS A WORLD IN WHICH A SUFFICIENT MODERN ENERGY SUPPLY FOR EVERYONE EXISTS IN HARMONY WITH CLIMATE PROTECTION.



SOLAR LEARNING

Training solar technicians will create career opportunities while reducing the local shortage of skilled workers. This will lead to an expanded supply on the solar market and thus to more solar energy and more local value creation.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

People of different age groups are learning the theoretical and practical basics of solar energy, and see it as a positive technology for the future. This increases their awareness and understanding of a climate-friendly, safe and social energy supply.



DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOLAR MARKET

Targeted measures are improving the economic and social conditions for solar energy. This in turn allows for better development of the local solar market.

SOLAR INFRASTRUCTURE

Installing non-profit solar systems and ensuring that they are used properly improves the livelihoods of people who are affected by energy poverty.



INNOVATION

Thanks to the promotion of innovations in technology, education, organizational structure and financing, the energy supply situation is improving and preference is turning more towards the use of climate-friendly energy.

CO₂ NEWS FROM OUR PROJECTS



■ Project country ■ Project in planning



ENTERING A RENEWABLE FUTURE WITH SELF-DETERMINATION

Is solar energy the key to a better future in the Global South? Learn how Virginia Kamau (23) seized her opportunity and not only changed her life, but also helped shape the future of Kenya.

In April 2024, a disastrous flood destroyed the home where Virginia Kamau (23) and her baby lived. The corrugated iron huts in the Mathare slum in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, were swept away by the masses of water. Virginia Kamau, a single mother, was facing the ruins of her existence. While still pregnant, she had resolved that she would determine her own future for herself and her child. That is not easy because, in Kenya, women are at a great economic disadvantage compared to men.

A GLOBAL CHALLENGE

The fate of Virginia Kamau exemplifies a global trend. While the Global North has been profiting from fossil fuels for decades, bringing not only economic growth but also the climate crisis with it, many countries in the Global South find themselves facing a double challenge: around 774 million people live without access to electricity –

a situation that severely impairs education, health, equality, economic development and security. At the same time, these regions are especially hard hit by the effects of climate change, despite having done very little to cause it.

Using fossil fuels to give more people access to electricity will only fuel the climate crisis further and worsen global inequalities. The only way to solve this conundrum is to rapidly and widely expand the capacity of renewable energies. This is exactly where Solafrika comes in.

SOLAR ENERGY AS A SOLUTION

Our project Solar Learning for Women gives women the opportunity to learn about solar technology and entrepreneurship in theory and practice. Upon passing the final examination, the women receive a state-recognised diploma as a solar specialist. Thus, in three years of training, as many as 300 women in Kenya become trained as solar technicians. For many, this is an opportunity to break out of the spiral of poverty and take the first step towards an independent life.

Solafrika's projects focus on solar energy because it offers the greatest potential for worldwide power generation. It has the major advantage that it can be produced off-grid and decentralised. In vast rural regions of Africa, especially, solar energy is therefore a good alternative to expanding the public electricity grid, which is often based on fossil fuels. In addition, solar energy generates local added value and creates jobs.







TRAINING AS AN OPPORTUNITY

When the flood disaster levelled Virginia's home, she was in the middle of her training as a solar technician. Thanks to an appeal for donations in Switzerland, Solafrica was able to provide emergency aid – for her and 20 other affected participants in the solar projects in Nairobi. Virginia didn't give up, and continued her training undeterred despite the difficult circumstances: "I like the practical training most of all because I love doing all the wiring. It just makes me feel good," she says with a big smile. The long, exhausting days were a challenge for her, but her determination remained unbroken.

SUNNY PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE

Virginia Kamau passed the state examinations in the summer of 2024. And not only that: after being presented her diploma at the graduation ceremony, she immediately received a job offer from a solar company. As a solar technician, she now earns enough money to provide a better life for herself and her child. At the same time, she firmly believes that solar energy will play a major role in Kenya's future: because the sun shines reliably, and the energy is constant and much cheaper than fossil-fuelled electricity from the grid.

Solafrica helps the women in the programme with more than just training. Through partnerships in the local solar industry, the solar technicians receive support in finding work after their training. In mentoring programmes, the women have the opportunity to receive further training in an area of their choice: they can deepen their knowledge of solar technology or focus on specialised applications such as solar irrigation systems, solar drying, the use of solar mills or the use of solar ovens.

THE VISION OF A SOLAR FUTURE

Solafrica's projects are designed to draw benefit from the unlimited and freely available power of the sun in two ways: the training of solar specialists and the construction of non-profit solar systems enables many people to escape from energy poverty. At the same time, the trained solar specialists help to preserve the planet for future generations by promoting the use of solar energy.

Virginia Kamau once made the resolution to follow her own path together with her child and to lead a self-determined life. She has achieved exactly that. The young woman's story is representative of countless other stories. In the summer of 2024 alone, 148 participants in Solafrica's Solar Learning projects in Kenya passed the state examination and received their diploma. This gives hope, because the new generation of solar experts will be involved in shaping Kenya's energy future.





FLOOD DISASTER IN KENYA

After very heavy rainfall and a tropical storm in Kenya, around half of the country was affected by severe flooding in April 2024. This mainly affected people in informal settlements and therefore those who already have the least – some of whom happened to be participating in our projects.

Eleven young women from the project Solar Learning for Women and ten young people from the Solar Learning Youth Centres lost their homes to the floods. Our partner organisation Solar Mtaani responded quickly to help those affected and their families.

An appeal for donations for emergency aid raised around 7,000 francs. With the money donated, Solar Mtaani employees were able to buy clothes, blankets, basic foodstuffs and hygiene products for the 21 affected families. Temporary accommodation was also organised for everyone.

Many thanks to all donors for this important support!

PROJECT

PROJECT

148 PARTICIPATING

of the Solar Learning projects in Kenya received their national diploma as solar technicians in 2024.

SOLAR EXPERTS FOR KENYA

We rarely get to feel this proud. In September 2024, 148 participants from the projects Solar Learning for Women and Solar Learning Youth Centres in Kenya received their state diplomas as solar technicians. The young people celebrated their success at a lively graduation ceremony.

There is great need for solar specialists in Kenya: there is a shortage of labour in the Kenyan solar market and demand for solar energy is rising sharply. In many regions of the country that are not connected to the power grid, solar energy is an excellent alternative. For many people, it is not only the best, but also the most cost-effective way to access electricity.



NEW MINIVAN

For many participants in our projects Solar Learning Youth Centres and Solar Learning for Women, the journey to and from the training location was a daily challenge. The routes involved travelling times of up to two hours each way, sometimes through unsafe areas.

Thanks to a new minivan that we were able to finance in 2024, that has changed: this safe means of transport allows the participants to get to their training location quickly and safely. With the minivan, we are also able to organise excursions to solar plants, solar companies or construction sites.



FURTHER PROJECTS IN EAST AFRICA

PROJECT

The Solar Advocacy project is helping the solar sector in Ethiopia to achieve a better institutional framework and stronger networking within the industry.

PROJECT

The Solar Fuels project is establishing a centre of excellence for the production of renewable solar fuels at the Adama Science and Technology University in Ethiopia.

A VISIONARY WITH A THIRST FOR ACTION

Amsale Mulugeta (79) leads a life characterised by dedication and a deep determination to give something back to society. Today, the dual national lives in two worlds: in Switzerland with her family, and in her home country of Ethiopia.

Amsale Mulugeta was allowed to attend school as a child. Some seventy years ago, this was a privilege known only to few girls in Ethiopia. Her father, who worked at a school himself, had high hopes for her future: “One day you will work in the Ministry of Education and help all those who need it,” he once said to her. Amsale Mulugeta still lives by these words to this day.

Her education gave her a life of security and independence – a gift she wants to pass on: “Ethiopian society made my education possible. Now I want to do something to improve the lives of those who are less fortunate.”

LIFE IN SWITZERLAND

After studying social work and community development and gaining her first professional experi-

ence in Ethiopia, Amsale Mulugeta led a successful professional life in Switzerland. She worked in international relations for over 25 years, with intercultural competence being an important focus of her work. She later became a programme manager for the Horn of Africa and then specifically for Ethiopia.

She and her husband, with whom she had come to Switzerland, started a family many years ago. She is the mother of three children and the grandmother of three grandchildren.

A LEGACY IN THE MAKING

As a programme manager in international relations, Amsale Mulugeta regularly travelled to her home country, especially to rural areas of Ethiopia. There she witnessed, first hand, how difficult the living conditions are for many people: “Back then, I swore to myself: I have to keep at it!” This decision marked the beginning of a significant life’s work.

In 2007, the dual national uprooted her life and moved back to Ethiopia – with a clear goal in mind: the education and creation of prospects for disadvantaged youth and women. Amsale Mulugeta founded the non-profit organisation



Amsale Mulugeta

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), an initiative that places education, women's empowerment, environmental protection and community development at the heart of its work.

In Ethiopia, there are four to five million young people seeking work every year. To address this, ESD provides young people with practice-oriented vocational training, inspired by the Swiss model of 70 percent practical and 30 percent theoretical training. The training programmes last three to nine months, depending on the profession. Every year, around 3,000 young people are given the chance to break out of the poverty spiral through vocational training.

LIGHT AND PERSPECTIVES THROUGH SOLAR ENERGY

One of ESD's flagship projects is the Solar Learning Ethiopia project, initiated jointly with Solafrica, which has already trained 500 young people as solar specialists over the past five years. "Ethiopia is often referred to as the 'country with 13 months of sunshine'," says Amsale Mulugeta, "but the sun is still underutilised." This is set to change.

In the next phase of the project, a further 300 unemployed youths and young adults will be trained in solar technology and small-scale entrepreneurship within three years. For their practical training, the trainees are installing solar systems at eight vocational schools and eight public hospitals. "From these installations, people are getting to see how well solar energy works, and the young people are learning a profession that offers them future prospects," says the founder of ESD.

The graduates will then enable 30,000 people in rural areas to gain access to energy. Smiling, Amsale Mulugeta says, "I always feel inspired when I see young people installing solar panels. For me, there can be no better motivation than providing light to people in the dark."

A LIFE FOR EDUCATION AND EQUAL RIGHTS

For Amsale Mulugeta, her work is much more than a profession – she lovingly refers to her non-profit organisation as her "fourth child". With projects such as Solar Learning Ethiopia and with her tireless commitment to education, equality and sustainability, she has turned her vision into something real: it has sown hope and changed the lives of countless people in Ethiopia. The legacy she is creating with her work will continue to have an impact and inspire generations for a long time to come.

"I want to see change – in the children, the youth, the mothers and society," says Amsale Mulugeta passionately. "That is my goal."

30,000 PEOPLE

in Ethiopia will benefit from the work of the
300 trained solar technicians.

STRONG SOLAR AMBASSADORS FOR BANGLADESH

“Eight people died in a single day – from the heat alone. There used to be nothing like this in Bangladesh,” says Jannatul Sayma, 23 years old. Together with Amena Twoaseen, she is fighting against the climate crisis that has long since taken hold of her home country. Her mission: a humane future for all. Her tool: Solar energy.

The climate crisis is no longer a looming threat; it is already a reality. Severe heatwaves with temperatures of up to 45 degrees hit South-east Asia hard in April and May 2024. The temperature was felt as above 50 degrees Celsius. This is life-threatening for humans and animals. Hundreds of deaths were reported, the heat caused crop damage and millions of schoolchildren were unable to go to school.

The two young women Jannatul Sayma (23) and Amena Twoaseen (22), both from Bangladesh, attended the regional training programme of the Scouts go Solar project in Thailand in May 2024. Jannatul Sayma explains, “Before I joined the regional training programme, our schools in Bangladesh were closed due to the extreme heatwave. Seven days later, they reopened – and eight people died on that day. Teachers, students, security guards. All because of the heat.”

The time to act is now. That is why Jannatul Sayma (23) and Amena Twoaseen (22) became environmental activists in their home country.

Amena Twoaseen is in the final year of her degree in soil science. Her home country, Bangladesh, still meets its growing energy needs almost exclusively with fossil fuels. “My goal is to make things change. We need to encourage people to use solar panels and solar cookers. It allows them to save money and time,” says Amena.

Jannatul, a budding environmental lawyer, is also motivated to make a difference in Ban-

gladesh: “I was already emotionally attached to solar energy. Thanks to the training, I now also have a practical connection. I can argue more broadly and demonstrate the economic potential of solar energy.”

The two women know: a world powered entirely with renewable energy is not a utopian dream, but a necessity that we must fight for today. To support this vision, we are training committed people like Jannatul Sayma and Amena Twoaseen to become solar ambassadors by regional training within the Scouts go Solar project. In Thailand in May 2024, 23 scouts from eleven countries in South East Asia acquired the skills they need to implement their own solar projects in their home country.

Regional training for North Africa and the Middle East will take place in Egypt in 2025. Furthermore, the now trained solar ambassadors carry out their own solar activities in their home countries on an ongoing basis, by which they reach both the local scout movement and the general population.



Jannatul Sayma



Amena Twoaseen



SCOUTS GO SOLAR

The Scouts go Solar project has been training scouts from all over the world to become solar ambassadors every year for over ten years. The success of Scouts go Solar lies in its combination of education, practical experience and social commitment.

The project is helping to publicise solar energy worldwide. At the same time, it promotes social and economic upturn in the communities of the scout leaders.

In 2024, our solar ambassadors undertook more than 100 solar activities in 36 countries around the world. For example in El Salvador, Mexico, Egypt, Vietnam, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Bolivia, Cameroon, India, Brazil, Malaysia, Nepal and many more.

23 SOLAR AMBASSADORS

from eleven countries in Southeast Asia were trained at the regional training programme in Thailand in 2024.



SOLAR ENERGY FOR HEALTH CENTERS

More than half of the health centres south of the Sahara have unreliable or no access to electricity. This energy poverty has a serious impact on medical care. In Burkina Faso, Niger and Togo, health centres are struggling with inadequate lighting, a lack of electricity and a lack of refrigeration facilities for vaccines and medicines. Women giving birth and small children are particularly affected, for whom these facilities are often the first and only point of contact – with sometimes fatal consequences.

The Santé Solaire programme uses solar energy to sustainably improve healthcare in rural regions. In 2024, 25 health centres were equipped with solar energy. Seven each in Burkina Faso and

Togo. Eight solar systems and six solar refrigerators were installed at eleven health centres in Niger.

Thanks to these measures, vital vaccines can be stored safely, treatments can be carried out at night and medical equipment can run reliably. Thanks to the Santé Solaire programme, around 265,000 people in structurally weak regions have access to better healthcare.

*Picture below: **Adideme Koutangni** (Project Coordinator Togo), **Cête Tiendrebéogo** (regional project coordinator Santé Solaire), **Seidi Abdourahmane** (Project Coordinator Niger)*



25 HEALTH CENTRES

were solarised in 2024. As a result, around 265,000 people have access to better healthcare.



INTERVIEW WITH ADIDEME KOUTANGNI

Adideme Koutangni is a trained geographer and heads the Santé Solaire programme in Togo. As a regional coordinator, she is working to equip health centres with solar energy and thus improve living conditions in rural regions that don't have a connection to the electricity grid. She is 43 years old, the mother of four children and lives in Lomé, Togo.

She has been working with Solafrica for two years and is committed to the expansion of renewable energies in Togo. Outside of work, she is committed to training and empowering women in skilled trades as President of the Kekeli association. Solafrica's project manager, Hélène Genolet, spoke to Adideme Koutangni about her work, challenges and visions.

What do you particularly like about the Santé Solaire programme?

There is a lot about the programme that inspires me. That moment, when a health centre lights up in the dark after a solar system was installed, is especially impressive. The people in the villages laugh with joy when they see that their neighbourhood is becoming brighter and safer. This is a real benefit for the community. In the joy on their faces, I find mine.

What challenges does the work involve?

We can't contact the health centres directly – we have to go through the relevant authorities. Some officials don't make that easy for us. The biggest difficulty is often the bureaucratic effort.

Have you observed a change in the use of solar energy in Togo in recent years?

Definitely! Thanks to the programme, I travel a lot and see that many health centres are now using solar energy – often private households too. Of course, it's not the case everywhere yet, but even in remote villages there's an increasing number of solar systems. That's a positive development for the country.

Do you think this trend will persist?

Yes, I think that more and more people will be getting interested in solar energy. Even though a solar power system requires an initial investment, it pays off in the long term. The advantages are simply too many.

Was there a situation in which solar energy particularly surprised or fascinated you?

I was impressed when I saw wells being powered by the sun for the first time. It provides a huge relief for the staff in health centres, especially. People in many villages have to walk for miles to fetch their water. Before you can care for the patients, you first have to see to the water supply – and that sometimes complicates everything. When there is a source of water directly on site, thanks to a solar pump, that saves an enormous amount of time – especially for providing healthcare.

What are your professional and personal goals for the future?

My aim with the Santé Solaire programme is to bring light to many more health centres in Togo. I also have the dream of setting up a training centre where we can train young women in many different skilled trades. They should learn how to become economically independent through their own skills.



Adideme Koutangni

NEW PROJECTS

SOLAR PERSPECTIVES

Despite economic growth, Senegal suffers from challenges such as food crises, climate change and high youth unemployment. Many young people feel their only hope is to emigrate, which leads them onto dangerous routes. In the new countries, when they get there, they are confronted with restrictive asylum policies and are often forced to return. Re-immigrants then struggle with financial difficulties, debt and social stigmatisation. Many also suffer from traumatic experiences that happened to them on the migration route.

This is precisely where Solar Perspectives comes in and offers a sustainable solution: training in solar technology gives young people a future-oriented career perspective and an alternative to emigration. The project promotes

integration into the solar labour market and supports economic development and the spread of renewable energies in Senegal. The target groups are young people from financially disadvantaged families and re-immigrants. Participants receive psychological support if needed.

The project contributes to combating poverty, improving infrastructure and promoting the green energy transition.

PROJECT

SOLAR PERSPECTIVES

📍 Senegal

📅 from 2025

👤 Responsibility: **Maria Bongard**

SOLAR LEARNING TANZANIA

There are still many regions of Tanzania that have no access to electricity. This is a major obstacle to overcoming poverty and promoting sustainable development. The Solar Learning Tanzania project therefore focuses on training young people to become solar technicians.

For the curriculum, great importance is attached to providing a large practical component. In addition, innovative modules are being developed that focus on the productive use of solar energy in agriculture and the processing of agricultural products.

Once their training is complete, the project supports the participants in their transition into the working world by arranging internships with solar companies. A business unit handles

public contracts in which the young people can participate. This is important so that they can gain practical experience and build professional networks.

Many years of experience from the Solar Learning projects in Kenya are being channelled into the project. A South-South exchange exists with the aim of strengthening local capacities.

PROJECT

SOLAR LEARNING TANZANIA

📍 Tanzania

📅 from 2026

👤 Responsibility: **Maria Bongard**



SOLAR ENERGY FOR A REFUGEE CAMP

The situation in the Kakuma refugee camp in north-west Kenya is extremely challenging for the residents. The unreliable or absent electricity supply is a major problem, particularly when it comes to healthcare, education and water supply. The majority of residents have been living in the camp for many years, with no realistic prospect of returning to their home countries.

The project Solar Energy for a Refugee Camp equips communal facilities with solar technology to improve the living conditions of the residents with this reliable and affordable power supply. Local volunteers are trained to ensure the smooth operation and maintenance

of the solar systems, giving them new career prospects.

The first phase of the project is a pilot test to demonstrate that energy poverty can be effectively combatted thanks to solar power, even under difficult humanitarian conditions.

PROJECT

SOLAR ENERGY FOR A REFUGEE CAMP

📍 Kenya

📅 from 2025

👤 Responsibility: **Martin Wanner**

SOLAR VIGNETTE

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News from our projects

More and more people are setting an example for the energy transition and sticking a solar vignette on their appliances. Through these efforts, the solar vignette is gradually becoming better known and our solar installations are growing in size.

When you buy a solar vignette, you finance a piece of solar equipment that produces as much electricity as your appliance consumes on average in a year. The solar vignette is available for mobile phones, computers, e-bikes, refrigerators and electric cars. Once a year, we build a new solar plant in Switzerland corresponding to the size of all solar vignettes sold. And those who wish can directly donate an entire panel.

Our next solar installation, with 125 solar panels, is being built on the roof of the Wylergut kindergarten in Bern. Due to a delay, the installation had to be postponed until the summer of 2025. The system will generate around 39,000 kWh of solar power per year – equivalent to the average annual consumption of eight Swiss households.

The organisation LerNetz contributed to the new solar plant in 2024 by donating 21 solar panels. The Schwamendingen solar association has dissolved and funded 50 panels with the remaining capital. A total of 87 panels have been donated. Thank you very much!

The electricity revenue from our solar systems flows constantly back into our projects. Thus you achieve a double effect with the purchase of a solar vignette. They are not only promoting solar power in Switzerland, but also supporting the global energy transition.



75,876 KWH SOLAR ELECTRICITY

were produced by our solar systems in Switzerland in 2024.

TSCHARNERGUT DAY-CARE CENTRE SOLAR PLANT

In 2024, 98 panels produced 28,244 kWh of solar power. This saved 11,249 kg of CO₂.

FANTASIA DAYCARE CENTRE SOLAR PLANT:

In 2024, 115 panels produced 39,697 kWh of solar power. This saved 15,839 kg of CO₂.

HOTEL ROTHORN SOLAR PLANT:

In 2024, 25 panels produced 6,935 kWh of solar power. This saved 2,767 kg of CO₂.

PROJECT



44 KlimaTickets were purchased in 2024. This raised a sum of CHF 6,094, which we will invest in a new solar plant in 2025.

With the KlimaTicket, you donate one centime towards climate protection for every kilometre flown. 100 percent of this amount goes towards the construction of a new Swiss solar plant. As with the solar vignette, the electricity revenues benefit our solar projects.

We deliberately refrain from making an exact calculation of CO₂ emissions. Because that would create the illusion that emissions caused in one place can be saved somewhere else. In reality, however, the CO₂ emitted by the aircraft remains in the atmosphere for a long time and contributes to climate change. Avoiding CO₂ emissions is therefore always the most effective climate protection. With the KlimaTicket, you do help to protect the climate, but do not reverse the emissions emitted.

➤ www.klimaticket.ch

THE ORGANISATION

C

TEAM



ANNA ABEL
East Africa programme



ANNA OPLADEN
Fundraising and Solar
Vignette



ELIAS KOST
Strategy and further
development



FABIENNE BIEDERMANN
Communication



FLORIAN SCHLEGEL
East Africa programme



HÉLÈNE GENOLET
Santé Solaire programme



MARIA BONGARD
East Africa programme



MARTIN THEILER
Solar Fuels project



MARTIN WANNER
Scouts Go Solar project



REBEKKA GAMMENTHALER
Institutional fundraising



RENAT BREITENSTEIN
Administration



SIMON MOSIMANN
Central services



THEO WERLEN
Central services



TIM BACHER
Marketing

In 2024, 13 permanent employees shared 765 working percentages (as at 31.12.2024. Year 2023: 16 employees, 955 work percentages). Martin Theiler was involved on a voluntary basis.

The employees and board members of Solafrica contributed a total of 1,245 hours of voluntary work.

SOLAFRICA ASSOCIATION

Solafrica is organised as an association. Its members are the Board of Directors and its permanent employees. It is not possible for private or legal persons to hold shares in Solafrica.

SOLACRACY

Solafrica works in a structure called “Solacracy”, a form of organisation adapted to us and inspired by the concepts of Holocracy and Sociocracy. Instead of hierarchies, Solafrica focuses on purpose-built roles and circles that represent the different responsibilities and fields of activity. In this way, we promote dynamism and equality in our processes.

Solafrica attaches great importance to progressive working conditions for its employees with a fair, comprehensible and transparent wage system. Decisions concerning the development of the organisation are discussed in appropriate meetings, where all employees are part of the decision-making process.

We maintain close cooperation and communication on equal terms with our partner organisations in the project countries. Strategic decisions are prepared and made together.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In 2024, the following people were active as volunteers on the Solafrica Board:

- **Kuno Roth** (Co-President), Dr rer. nat. Chemist, human ecologist, environmental educator, author
- **Nadja Scherrer** (Co-President since June 2024), Exec. MA in Intercultural Communication, Head Marketing & Partnerships Swiss Films
- **Cédric Marty** (Co-President until May 2024), MSc Management, Technology, and Economics, Head of Sustainability Sunrise
- **Carmen Carfora** lic. phil., MAS Communication Management and Leadership ZHAW, Head of Sustainability Andermatt Swiss Alps and Andermatt-Sedrun Sport AG
- **Claudio Clematide** MSc Business Administration and Management, Deputy Director of Swiss Refugee Council
- **Christine Badertscher** MSc Agronomy, National Councillor, Greens Canton of Berne
- **Daniel Wyniger**, lic. rer. pol., dipl. Certified Public Accountant, MSc Applied Ethics, Audit Expert of the Swiss Federal Audit Office
- **Marta Ra** dr rer. oec., Economics HSG, Co-Founder Women in Sustainable Finance (WISF), Author
- **Raphael Engler** mSc Management, Technology, and Economics, Management Consultant McKinsey & Company



PHILIPPE
KNECHT,
PRIVATE DONOR

“ I have believed in Solafrica since buying my first solar vignette: the vignette concept is already well established in the minds of the Swiss. These solar stickers on laptops and mobile phones have already sparked many good conversations about energy consumption, climate heating and, of course, Solafrica – and they also make a great gift. I support Solafrica because I believe in what the team is doing. By supporting solar energy projects, I can both create opportunities for people south of the Sahara and help in protecting the climate.”

“ Solafrica focuses on the potential of women in Kenya: Solar Learning for Women gives women the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of solar technology and entrepreneurship. With this great project, Solafrica is achieving two important goals: strengthening the economic independence of women and reducing energy poverty in rural and informal settlements in Kenya. The project is very much in line with our values, which is why we enthusiastically support it!”



ANTONIA BANZ,
STIFTUNG
FOKUS FRAUEN



NADINE
PEREIRA,
SWISSQUOTE

“ In 2024, Swissquote continued its sponsorship programme with Solafrica by funding the installation of a solar system at a rural health centre in Togo. Thanks to this initiative, over 13,000 people in the surrounding community now have access to electricity and reliable lighting. Through our partnership with Solafrica, Swissquote customers can contribute with their investments to projects that have a direct, positive impact on individuals and local communities.”

04 FINANCES AND ACCOUNTING

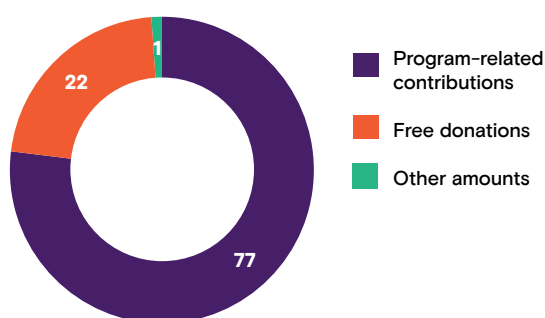
C

FINANCIAL SITUATION AND PLANNING

From a financial perspective, 2024 was a successful year for Solafrica. A difficult first half of the year was followed by a successful second half. This resulted in an overall positive annual result of CHF 84,228.

REVENUE

REVENUE (%)



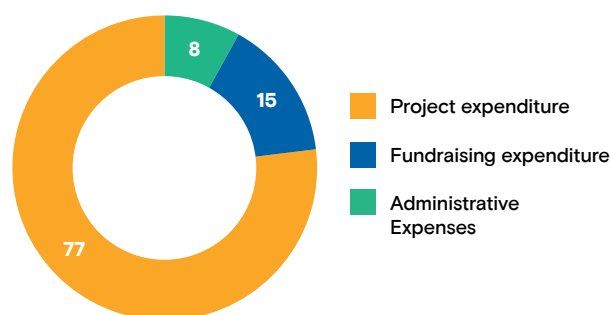
Solafrica is funded entirely by donations and project contributions. With a total revenue of CHF 2.9 million, more income was generated than ever before in the history of Solafrica. Programme-related contributions and unrestricted donations both increased significantly. This confirms that we have an attractive project portfolio and good cooperation with our funding partners. At the same time, the investments made in recent years to expand fundraising are having an impact.

EXPENDITURE

Total expenditure rose to CHF 2.5 million. This is divided into three categories in line with the Zewo Foundation method. 77% of our total expenditure goes directly into our projects that promote solar energy for people and the climate. Fundraising expenditure accounts for 15% and administrative expenditure for 8%. The increasing revenues show that the expenses for fundraising are being used

efficiently and are having the desired effect. It is also pleasing to report the further reduction in administrative expenditure.

EXPENDITURE (%)



RESULT AND FINANCIAL POSITION

The operating result shows an overall surplus of CHF 84,228. The organisational capital increased to over CHF 600,000. This means that we are only just short of the Zewo Foundation target for financial reserves. However, it should be noted that liquidity did not increase to the same extent, due to the growth in fixed assets in the form of solar installations.

OUTLOOK FOR 2025

The priority for 2025 is to implement the newly launched projects and to enter into other areas such as assisting with climate adaptation or improving living conditions in refugee camps through solar energy. From a financial perspective, 2025 will be focused even more on project implementation. We anticipate slightly higher expenses and slightly lower revenue, which will lead to a slight overall reduction in the currently high fund capital.

P/L STATEMENT

OPERATING ACCOUNT	2024	2023
Donations and legacies	634,173	520,632
Program-related contributions	1,937,281	1,341,153
Contributions from programs	299,868	247,495
Supplies and services	-	-
Other income	26,041	21,637
Operating income	2,897,363	2,130,917
Cost of goods and materials	-	-
Direct programme services	-1,311,699	-1,186,752
Personnel	-872,000	-895,367
Real estate, furniture and vehicles	-30,927	-29,406
Other operating expenses	-274,161	-223,777
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	-17,722	-3,968
Operating expenses	-2,506,509	-2,339,270
OPERATING RESULT	390,854	-208,353
Financial income	596	0
Financial expenses	-239	-531
Income from sideline operations	2,500	3,643
Non-operating and extraordinary income	-1,485	1,887
Other income	1,372	4,999
RESULT BEFORE CHANGE IN OF THE FUND CAPITAL	392,226	-203,354
Allocation of fund capital	-1,930,445	-1,319,602
Use of fund capital	1,622,446	1,538,224
Change in fund capital	-307,999	218,622
RESULT BEFORE CHANGE IN ORGANISATIONAL CAPITAL	84,228	15,268
Allocation of organisational capital	-801,295	-650,594
Use of organisational capital	717,067	635,326
Change in organisational capital	-84,228	-15,268
RESULT	-	-

All amounts stated in CHF and have been rounded.

BALANCE SHEET

BALANCE SHEET	2024	2023
Cash and cash equivalents	1,130,420	737,352
Securities	-	-
Accounts receivable supplies and services	1,100	45,625
Other receivables	-	-
Inventories and unbilled services	12,977	22,124
Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	177	750
Current assets	1,144,674	805,851
Financial assets	-	-
Property, plant and equipment	172,750	176,253
Intangible assets	49,205	61,506
Fixed assets	221,955	237,759
TOTAL ASSETS	1,366,629	1,043,610
Accounts payable supplies and services	50,773	115,677
Current interest-bearing liabilities	-	-
Other current liabilities	4,304	4,304
Accrued expenses and deferred income	2,900	2,900
Short-term liabilities	57,977	122,881
Long-term interest-bearing liabilities	-	-
Other long-term liabilities	4,304	8,608
Provisions and similar items	-	-
Long-term liabilities	4,304	8,608
fund capital	702,944	411,698
Free capital	601,404	500,424
Organisational capital	601,404	500,424
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,366,629	1,043,610

All amounts stated in CHF and have been rounded.

FUNDING SOURCES

Solafrica is financed mainly by institutional contributions, government grants and donations from private individuals.

INSTITUTIONAL FINANCING PARTNERS

Many thanks to the following foundations, cantons, municipalities and parishes, which made Solafrica's projects possible in 2024: The financing partners include, among others:

- atDta-Stiftung Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe
- Beisheim Stiftung
- Claire Sturzenegger-Jeanfavre Stiftung
- Däster-Schild Stiftung
- Hirschmann-Stiftung
- Lotteriefonds Appenzell Ausserrhoden
- Lotteriefonds Kanton Bern
- Lotteriefonds Kanton Glarus
- Lotteriefonds Kanton Obwalden
- Lotteriefonds Kanton Zug
- Migros-Unterstützungsfonds
- Römisch-katholische Gesamtkirchgemeinde Bern und Umgebung
- Schweizer Kooperationsbüro DEZA Burkina Faso
- Schweizer Kooperationsbüro DEZA Niger
- Stiftung fokus frauen
- Stiftung Fourfold
- Stiftung Temperatio
- Solarspar
- Umweltstiftung Greenpeace

and many more.

PRIVATE PERSONS

Donation income increased by almost 22 per cent to CHF 634,173 in 2024. This includes private donations, sponsoring memberships, solar vignettes, climate tickets and legacies. Solafrika was supported by 372 sponsoring members in 2024, which corresponds to a donation volume of CHF 52,250.

SPONSORING MEMBERSHIP

Solafrika's sponsoring members pay a contribution to the organisation once a year:

- **Sponsoring membership Regular:**
CHF 80 per year
- **Sponsoring membership High Voltage:**
CHF 240 per year

Sponsoring memberships are particularly valuable to us because they are consistent and we can build on them.

Thank you very much!

➤ www.solafrika.ch/en/become-a-sponsoring-member



LEGAL NOTICE

This annual report relates to the activities of Solafrica between 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2024.

Pictures

Pictures were taken by Solafrica employees or partner organisations.

Layout

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Concept, editing and project management

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DILIGENCE AND TRANSPARENCY

Solafrica has been Zewo-certified since 2015. This seal of approval stands for:

- earmarked, economical and effective use of your donation
- transparent information and meaningful accounting
- independent and appropriate control structures
- sincere communication and fair fundraising



**Your donation
in good hands.**

Solafrica is recognised as a non-profit organisation by the canton of Berne. Donations to Solafrica are tax-deductible in most cantons.

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